UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

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A/RES/50/162
1 February 1996

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 107

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/50/630)]

50/162. Proposed merger of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/111 of 20 December 1993 regarding the proposal to merge the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women,

Recalling also its resolution 49/160 of 23 December 1994 regarding the proposed merger,

Bearing in mind the report of the Secretary-General of 7 July 1994, 1/ submitted pursuant to resolution 48/111,

Bearing in mind also the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions of 7 September 1994, 2/ prepared in compliance with resolution 48/111,

Taking into consideration its request to the Secretary-General, in resolution 49/160, that he submit, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, an updated report which would contain, inter alia, the information requested by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1993/235 of 27 July 1993 and by the General Assembly in paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 48/111, as well as the additional information requested by the Advisory Committee,

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1/ A/49/217-E/1994/103.

2/ A/49/365-E/1994/119.

Also taking into consideration paragraph 5 of resolution 49/160, in which it requested the Economic and Social Council to re-examine the issue at a resumed session to take place after the Fourth World Conference on Women and before the Third Committee of the General Assembly considered the question of the advancement of women, taking into account the deliberations of the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-ninth session, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions concerning institutional arrangements in the United Nations system for the advancement of women,

Keeping in mind that the Commission on the Status of Women did not give an opinion on this matter, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 49/160, owing to the lack of the documents requested therein,

Keeping in mind also that the Fourth World Conference on Women did not discuss the proposed merger of the Institute and the Fund, but outlined their mandates separately and distinctly,

Taking note of the opinion expressed in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, entitled "The advancement of women through and in the programmes of the United Nations system: what happens after the Fourth World Conference on Women?", 3/ that the vast majority of women, and the most pressing problems for women, are in the developing world and that therefore at least one of the specific United Nations women's units should also be based there,

1. Takes note of the note by the Secretariat 4/ prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/160;

2. Takes note also of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; 5/

3. Reaffirms the view expressed in paragraph 360 of the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women at Beijing on 15 September 1995 6/ that, recognizing the roles of United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, in particular the special roles of the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, in the promotion of the empowerment of women and, therefore, in the implementation of the Platform for Action within their respective mandates, inter alia, in research, training and information activities for the advancement of women, as well as technical and financial assistance to incorporate a gender perspective in development efforts, the resources provided by the international community need to be sufficient and should be maintained at an adequate level;

3/ See A/50/509, para. 225.

4/ A/50/747-E/1995/126.

5/ A/50/785-E/1995/128.

6/ A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

4. Concurs with the views expressed in paragraphs 334 and 335 of the Platform for Action concerning the mandates of the Institute and the Fund;

5. Regrets that, owing to the absence of sufficient information on the legal, technical and administrative implications of the proposed merger, it is currently unable to decide on the proposed merger;

6. Urges the Secretary-General to implement the mandates set out in its resolution 49/163 of 23 December 1994;

7. Recommends that the interaction between the Commission on the Status of Women, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat and the United Nations Development Fund for Women should be reviewed and rationalized within the context of ongoing efforts to revitalize the Economic and Social Council in pursuance of a stronger, more unified programme for the advancement of women as requested in paragraph 2 of resolution 48/111;

8. Also recommends that any proposal dealing with the institutional structure and the mandates of the different United Nations bodies dealing with the advancement of women must be considered part of the general restructuring exercise of the United Nations.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/50/630)]

50/163. International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/105 of 20 December 1993,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/45 of 27 July 1995,

Taking note also of the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its fifteenth session, 1/

Taking note further of the analysis done by the Board of Trustees and its recommendation that the Institute should also report to the Second Committee of the General Assembly under relevant agenda items, in order to improve the coordination and synergy of its programmes with other economic and social issues,

Reaffirming the original mandate and distinct capacity of the Institute to carry out research and training for the advancement of women, as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975,

Stressing the need for independent research to ensure that policy-making and project implementation address issues and emerging areas of concern to women, and the role of the activities of the Institute therein,

Noting the recommendation of the Board of Trustees that the Institute should implement the recommendations emanating from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women, especially those related to research and

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1/ E/1995/80.

training needs for the advancement of women, and coordinate effectively with United Nations bodies and organizations to avoid duplication,

Convinced that sustainable development cannot be achieved without the full participation of women,

Taking into account paragraph 334 of the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women at Beijing on 15 September 1995, 2/

1. Expresses its satisfaction with the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, and commends the Institute for its efforts to focus on problems that constitute barriers to improving the status of women and their full participation in the sustainable development process;

2. Emphasizes the unique function of the Institute as the only entity within the United Nations system devoted exclusively to research and training for the integration of women in development, and stresses the importance of making its research findings available for policy purposes and for operational activities;

3. Commends the efforts of the Institute to address all levels of poverty that hamper so dramatically the advancement of women, through the coordination of research and training activities in the areas of empowerment of women; statistics and indicators in gender issues; communications; women, natural resources and sustainable development; water, sanitation and waste management; renewable sources of energy; and issues related to different population groups, such as older and displaced women, refugee and migrant women and women in rural areas;

4. Encourages the Institute to further develop active and close cooperation with the specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations system and with other institutions, such as universities and research institutions, so as to promote programmes that contribute to the advancement of women;

5. Reiterates the importance of maintaining the level of resources devoted to independent research and related training activities which are crucial for the situation of women;

6. Expresses its appreciation to those Governments and organizations which have contributed to and supported the activities of the Institute;

7. Invites Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute, through voluntary contributions and pledges, to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, thus enabling the Institute to continue to respond effectively to its mandate;

2/ A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the activities of the Institute, especially on those activities related to research and training needs for the advancement of women as contained in the follow-up process of the plans and platforms emanating from the major United Nations conferences, under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/50/630)]

50/164. Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

The General Assembly,

Recalling Articles 1 and 101 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling also Article 8 of the Charter, which provides that the United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs,

Recalling further the relevant paragraphs of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 1/ and the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women on 15 September 1995, 2/

Concerned at the serious and continuing underrepresentation of women in the Secretariat, particularly at the higher decision-making levels,

Convinced that the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat could significantly enhance the effectiveness and credibility of the United Nations, including its leadership role in advancing the status of women worldwide and in promoting the full participation of women in all aspects of decision-making,

Disappointed that the objective set in its resolutions 45/125 of 14 December 1990 and 45/239 C of 21 December 1990 of a 35 per cent overall

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1/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

2/ A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

participation rate of women in posts subject to geographical distribution by 1995 has not been met,

Disappointed also that the goal set in its resolution 45/239 C of a 25 per cent participation rate of women in posts at the D-1 level and above by 1995 has not been met and that their level of representation remains unacceptably low,

Recalling its resolution 49/167 of 23 December 1994, in which it urged the Secretary-General to implement fully the strategic plan of action for the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (1995-2000), 3/

Noting the efforts made by the Secretary-General and the Office of Human Resources Management of the Secretariat to integrate the objectives set by the General Assembly for the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat into the overall strategy for the management of the Organization's human resources, and noting also that such a comprehensive approach would be conducive to enhancing the status of women in the Secretariat,

Recognizing the importance of providing equal employment opportunities for all staff,

Aware that a comprehensive policy aimed at preventing and dealing with sexual harassment should be an integral part of personnel policy,

Welcoming the statement of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the status of women in the secretariats of the United Nations system, 4/ in which the members of the Committee reaffirmed their strong commitment to ensuring that the advancement of women was a priority within the organizations of the common system and to taking measures to improve the status of women in their respective secretariats,

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General; 5/

2. Notes the efforts to date of the Secretary-General to implement the strategic plan of action for the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (1995-2000), and reaffirms that his continued visible commitment is essential to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the strategic plan;

3. Calls upon the Secretary-General to ensure full and urgent implementation of the strategic plan in order to achieve the goal contained in the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women for overall gender equality, particularly at the Professional level and above, by the year 2000;

4. Also calls upon the Secretary-General to fulfil his target, reaffirmed by the Fourth World Conference on Women, of having women hold 50 per cent of managerial and decision-making positions by the year 2000;

5. Welcomes the Secretary-General's initiatives to date to ensure implementation of the strategic plan, including the incorporation of measures

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3/ A/49/587 and Corr.1, sect. IV.

4/ See A/50/691, annex.

5/ A/50/691.

into the performance appraisal system to hold managers responsible and accountable and the inclusion in training programmes of components designed to sensitize managers to gender issues;

6. Urges the Secretary-General to continue his work on improving the work practices and environment within the United Nations system with a view to increasing flexibility so as to remove direct or indirect discrimination, including against staff members with family responsibilities, through, inter alia, consideration of such issues as spouse employment, job-sharing, flexible working hours, child-care arrangements and career-break schemes, and to improve access for all staff to training and career development;

7. Notes the examination that has begun of the effectiveness of the Organization's policies and procedures, established in 1992, to deal with sexual harassment in the workplace, and urges the Secretary-General to ensure that the examination leads to a comprehensive and effective policy, including grievance mechanisms, for the prevention and redress of sexual harassment in the Secretariat;

8. Urges the Secretary-General to increase the number of women employed in the Secretariat from developing countries, particularly those that are unrepresented or underrepresented, and from other countries that have a low representation of women, including countries in transition;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that equal employment opportunities exist for all staff;

10. Also requests the Secretary-General to enable, from within existing resources, the Focal Point for Women within the Secretariat effectively to monitor and facilitate progress in the implementation of the strategic plan;

11. Strongly encourages Member States to support the strategic plan and the efforts of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to increase the percentage of women in Professional posts, especially at the D-1 level and above, by identifying and submitting more women candidates, encouraging women to apply for vacant posts and creating national rosters of women candidates to be shared with the Secretariat, specialized agencies and regional commissions;

12. Requests the Secretary-General, in accordance with the relevant rules on the delivery timetable for documentation, to ensure that a progress report on the status of women in the Secretariat is submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fortieth session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, taking into account the promotion of integrated reporting.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/50/630 and Corr.1)]

50/165. Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 34/14 of 9 November 1979, in which it endorsed the Declaration of Principles and the Programme of Action as adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, 1/ and its resolutions 44/78 of 8 December 1989 and 48/109 of 20 December 1993,

Recalling also the importance attached to the problems of rural women by the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 2/ and by the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women on 15 September 1995, 3/

Recalling further its resolution 47/174 of 22 December 1992, in which it welcomed the adoption of the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women by the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women, held at Geneva in February 1992, 4/ and urged all States to work for the achievement of the goals endorsed in the Declaration,

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1/ See Report of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Rome, 12-20 July 1979 (WCARRD/REP), transmitted to the General Assembly by a note by the Secretary-General (A/34/485).

2/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

3/ A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

4/ A/47/308-E/1992/97, annex.

Welcoming the growing awareness of Governments of the need for strategies and programmes to improve the situation of women in rural areas,

Noting with deep concern that the economic and financial crises in many developing countries have severely affected the socio-economic status of women, especially in rural areas, and the continuing rise in the number of rural women living in poverty,

Recognizing the urgent need to take appropriate measures aimed at further improving the situation of women in rural areas,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General; 5/

2. Invites Member States, in their efforts to implement the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women, bearing in mind also the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women, to attach greater importance to the improvement of the situation of rural women in their national development strategies, paying special attention to both their practical and their strategic needs, by, inter alia:

(a) Integrating the concerns of rural women into national development policies and programmes, in particular by placing a higher priority on budgetary allocation related to the interests of rural women;

(b) Strengthening national machineries and establishing institutional linkages among governmental bodies in various sectors and non-governmental organizations that are concerned with rural development;

(c) Increasing the participation of rural women in the decision-making process;

(d) Undertaking necessary measures to give rural women full and equal access to productive resources, including the right to inheritance and to ownership of land and other property, credit/capital, natural resources, appropriate technologies, markets and information, and meeting their basic requirements in water and sanitation;

(e) Investing in the human resources of rural women, particularly through health and literacy programmes and social support measures;

3. Requests the international community and relevant United Nations organizations and bodies to promote the realization of the programmes and projects aimed at the improvement of the situation of rural women within the overall framework of integrated follow-up to recent global conferences;

4. Invites the World Food Summit to be convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 1996 to give due consideration to the issue of improving the situation of rural women, taking into account their role in food production and food security, and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) to give due consideration to the gender aspects of rural-urban migration and its impact on the situation of rural women, in formulating relevant strategies and actions;

5/ A/50/257/Rev.1-E/1995/61/Rev.1.

5. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with Member States and relevant United Nations organizations, a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to submit it, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, taking into account possible measures to improve the reporting procedure.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/50/630 and Corr.1)]

50/166. The role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in eliminating violence against women

The General Assembly,

Welcoming the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, 1/ which called for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls and the promotion and protection of all human rights of women and girls, stressing that acts or threats of violence, whether occurring within the home or in the community or perpetrated or condoned by the State, instilled fear and insecurity in women's lives and were obstacles to the achievement of equality, development and peace,

Recalling that the Platform for Action called for action to eradicate violence against the girl child, recognizing that girls were more vulnerable to all kinds of violence,

Recalling also that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action 2/ affirmed that gender-based violence and all forms of sexual harassment and exploitation, including those resulting from cultural prejudice and international trafficking, were incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and must be eliminated,

Recalling further its resolution 48/104 of 20 December 1993, proclaiming the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, in which it recognized that violence against women violated and impaired or nullified the enjoyment by women of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

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1/ A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

2/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

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Recognizing the importance of the effective implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 3/

Emphasizing the need for full implementation by Governments and community organizations, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, and the public and private sectors, as appropriate, of the measures set out in the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action,

Urging that Governments allocate adequate resources within their budgets and mobilize community resources for activities related to the elimination of violence against women, including resources for the implementation of plans of action at all appropriate levels, as called for in paragraph 124 (p) of the Platform for Action,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/27 of 24 July 1995, in which the Council approved resolution 8 of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders concerning the elimination of violence against women and urged the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to continue to consider the elimination of violence against women within its priority themes and within the training and technical assistance efforts of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme,

Recognizing the importance of cooperation with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women,

Reaffirming the importance of developing a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to the task of promoting families, communities and States that are free from violence against women, and affirming the need for coordinated and strengthened international support for this approach,

Recalling its resolution 48/107 of 20 December 1993, in which it reaffirmed the catalytic role that the United Nations Development Fund for Women has played in facilitating the efforts of Governments and non-governmental organizations at the national and community levels to support innovative activities that directly benefit and empower women and in increasing opportunities and options for women in developing countries to participate more effectively in the development of their countries, in line with national priorities,

1. Reiterates its appreciation for the advocacy initiatives of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, including its contribution to and participation in the follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, in particular with respect to efforts to combat violence against women, commends the Fund for its support of catalytic and innovative projects that strengthen the national capacity to improve the situation of women, and takes note with appreciation of the Platform for Action which affirmed that the Fund had the mandate to increase options and opportunities for women's economic and social development in developing countries by providing technical and financial assistance to incorporate the women's dimension into development at all levels and that it should review and strengthen, as appropriate, its work programme in the light of the Platform for Action, focusing on women's political and economic empowerment;

3/ Resolution 34/180, annex.

2. Requests the Fund, as one of the operational bodies of the United Nations, to take into account the need to strengthen its activities to eliminate violence against women as part of system-wide efforts of the United Nations towards this goal, in accordance with the measures set out in the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and focusing on activities, particularly at the national and community levels, and calls upon Member States to promote cooperation with the Fund to these ends;

3. Also requests the Fund, in undertaking any relevant activities, to cooperate closely with the relevant United Nations organs and bodies, in particular the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat, the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Secretariat and the United Nations Children's Fund, in order to ensure that its activities form part of the system-wide efforts of the United Nations to eliminate violence against women;

4. Further requests the Fund to include in its regular reports information regarding its activities to eliminate violence against women and girls and to provide such information to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights;

5. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in consultation with the Secretary-General, as well as with the relevant United Nations organs and bodies, in particular the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, the Centre for Human Rights and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, to consider the possibility of establishing a trust fund, within the existing mandate, structure and management of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, in support of national, regional and international actions, including those taken by Governments and non-governmental organizations, to eliminate violence against women;

6. Requests the Fund to include in its regular reports information on the implementation of the present resolution and also to provide such information to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/50/630 and Corr.1)]

50/167. Traffic in women and girls

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 2/ the International Covenants on Human Rights, 3/ the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 4/ the Convention on the Rights of the Child 5/ and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 6/

Recalling that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, 7/ affirmed the human rights of women and the girl child as an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights,

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1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 34/180, annex.

3/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

4/ Resolution 39/46, annex.

5/ Resolution 44/25, annex.

6/ Resolution 48/104.

7/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

Welcoming the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development 8/ which, inter alia, called upon all Governments to prevent all international trafficking in migrants, especially for the purpose of prostitution, and for the adoption by Governments of both receiving countries and countries of origin of effective sanctions against those who organize undocumented migration, exploit undocumented migrants or engage in trafficking in undocumented migrants, especially those who engage in any form of international traffic of women and children,

Recalling the recognition by the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, 9/ of the danger to society of the trafficking in women and children,

Welcoming the initiatives taken by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice 10/ and the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Cairo from 29 April to 8 May 1995, 11/ towards criminalizing clandestine traffic in illegal migrants,

Concurring with the conclusion in the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women at Beijing on 15 September 1995, 12/ that the effective suppression of trafficking in women and girls for the sex trade is a matter of pressing international concern,

Recalling its resolution 49/166 of 23 December 1994, and taking note of Commission on the Status of Women resolution 39/6 of 29 March 1995, 13/

Acknowledging the work done by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in compiling information on the scale and complexity of the problem of trafficking, in providing shelters for trafficked women and children and in effecting their voluntary repatriation to their countries of origin,

Noting with concern the increasing number of women and girl children from developing countries and from some countries with economies in transition

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8/ Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex, chap. X.

9/ See A/CONF.166/9.

10/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 10 (E/1995/30), chap. I, sect. B.III.

11/ See A/CONF.169/16.

12/ A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

13/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 6 (E/1995/26), chap. I, sect. C.

who are being victimized by traffickers, and acknowledging that the problem of trafficking also victimizes young boys,

Convinced of the need to eliminate all forms of sexual violence and sexual trafficking, including for prostitution and other forms of commercial sex, which are violations of the human rights of women and girl children and are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person,

Realizing the urgent need for the adoption of effective measures nationally, regionally and internationally to protect women and girl children from this nefarious traffic,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the traffic in women and girls; 14/

2. Appeals to Governments to take appropriate measures to address the root factors, including external factors, that encourage trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriages and forced labour, so as to eliminate trafficking in women, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing perpetrators, through both criminal and civil measures;

3. Invites Governments to combat trafficking in women and children through nationally and internationally coordinated measures, at the same time establishing or strengthening institutions for the protection of the victims of trafficking of women and children, and to ensure for victims the necessary assistance, including legal support services that are linguistically and culturally accessible, for their full protection, treatment and rehabilitation;

4. Also invites Governments to consider the development of standard minimum rules for the humanitarian treatment of trafficked persons, consistent with human rights standards;

5. Urges concerned Governments to support comprehensive, practical approaches by the international community to assist women and children victims of transnational trafficking to return home and be reintegrated into their home societies;

6. Encourages Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, 15/ international agreements on the suppression of slavery and other relevant international instruments;

14/ A/50/369.

15/ Resolution 317 (IV), annex.

7. Invites the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in addressing the obstacles to the realization of the human rights of women, in particular, through his contacts with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, to include the traffic in women and girls among his priority concerns;

8. Also encourages the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat to include the traffic in women and girls in its programme of work under its advisory, training and information services, with a view to providing assistance to member Governments, upon their request, in instituting preventive measures against trafficking through education and appropriate information campaigns;

9. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to encourage the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to continue to address the issue of the traffic in women and girls under its draft programme of action on the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others; 16/

10. Requests the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to consider appropriate follow-up to the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders on measures to address the problem of trafficking in women and children and to submit a report thereon to the Secretary-General, through the usual channels, for inclusion in his report to the General Assembly;

11. Invites relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide advisory services to Governments, upon their request, in planning and setting up rehabilitation programmes for victims of trafficking and in training personnel who will be directly involved in the implementation of these programmes;

12. Decides to focus the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, 2 December 1996, on the problem of trafficking in human persons, especially women and children, and to devote one meeting of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly to the discussion of this problem;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, under the item entitled "Advancement of women", a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution, with due regard for possible measures to improve the reporting procedure.

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16/ See E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/28/Add.1.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/50/630 and Corr.1)]

50/168. Violence against women migrant workers

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/96 of 16 December 1992, 48/110 of 20 December 1993 and 49/165 of 23 December 1994, as well as Commission on the Status of Women resolution 38/7 of 18 March 1994, 1/ and taking note of Commission on the Status of Women resolution 39/7 of 31 March 1995 2/ and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/20 of 24 February 1995, 3/

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, 4/

Taking note with concern of the report of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on its twentieth session, 5/ in particular its observations with respect to the treatment of migrant workers,

Acknowledging the preliminary report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and its consequences, 6/

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 7 (E/1994/27), chap. I, sect. C.

2/ Ibid., 1995, Supplement No. 6 (E/1995/26), chap. I, sect. C.

3/ Ibid., Supplement No. 3 (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II.

4/ A/50/378.

5/ E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/28 and Add.1.

6/ E/CN.4/1995/42.

Stressing that the promotion of the human rights of women constitutes an integral part of human rights activities of the United Nations, as reaffirmed in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, 7/

Affirming the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, 8/ which called upon all countries to take full measures to eliminate all forms of exploitation, abuse, harassment and violence against women,

Welcoming the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, adopted by the World Summit on 12 March 1995, 9/ which declared that countries should take concrete measures against the exploitation of migrants,

Welcoming also the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women on 15 September 1995, 10/ which recognized the vulnerability to violence and other forms of abuse of women migrants, including women migrant workers, whose legal status in the host country depends on employers who may exploit their situations,

Noting the large numbers of women from developing countries and from some countries with economies in transition who continue to venture forth to more affluent countries in search of a living for themselves and their families, as a consequence of poverty, unemployment and other socio-economic conditions, while acknowledging the primary duty of States to work for conditions that provide employment and security to their citizens,

Concerned by the continuing reports of grave abuses and acts of violence committed against the persons of women migrant workers by some employers in some host countries,

Encouraged by some measures adopted by some receiving countries to alleviate the plight of women migrant workers residing within their areas of jurisdiction,

Reiterating that acts of violence directed against women impair or nullify their enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

1. Determines to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls;

2. Calls upon States Members of the United Nations to adopt measures for the effective implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 11/ including applying them to women migrant

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7/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

8/ Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

9/ A/CONF.166/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

10/ A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

11/ Resolution 48/104.

workers, as well as all relevant measures emanating from recent world conferences;

3. Encourages Member States to enact and/or reinforce penal, civil, labour and administrative sanctions in domestic legislation to punish and redress the wrongs done to women and girls who are subjected to any form of violence, whether in the home, the workplace, the community or society;

4. Also encourages Member States to adopt and/or implement and periodically to review and analyse legislation to ensure its effectiveness in eliminating violence against women, emphasizing the prevention of violence and the prosecution of offenders, and to take measures to ensure the protection of women subjected to violence and that they have access to just and effective remedies, including compensation and indemnification and healing of victims, and for the rehabilitation of perpetrators;

5. Reiterates the need for States concerned, specifically the sending and receiving States of women migrant workers, to conduct regular consultations for the purpose of identifying problem areas in promoting and protecting the rights of women migrant workers and ensuring health, legal and social services for them, adopting specific measures to address these problems, setting up, as necessary, linguistically and culturally accessible services and mechanisms to implement these measures and, in general, creating conditions that foster greater harmony and tolerance between women migrant workers and the rest of the society in which they reside;

6. Encourages Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, 12/ as well as the Slavery Convention of 1926; 13/

7. Recommends that the issue of violence against women migrant workers be included in the agenda of the inter-agency meeting that precedes the regular session of the Commission on the Status of Women;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of an expert group, with the participation of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women and under the regular programme of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat, to submit recommendations for improving coordination of the various efforts of United Nations agencies on the issue of violence against women migrant workers and to develop concrete indicators as a basis for determining the situation of women migrant workers for submission, through normal channels, to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

9. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat and the Special Rapporteur, as well as all relevant bodies and programmes in the United Nations system, when addressing the issue of violence against women, to give particular attention to the issue of violence perpetrated against women migrant workers and to submit reports thereon to the General Assembly;

12/ Resolution 45/158, annex.

13/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 212, No. 2861.

10. Invites trade unions to support the realization of the rights of women migrant workers by assisting them in organizing themselves so as to enable them better to assert their rights;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution, including on reports received from all authorities and bodies in the United Nations system, Member States, intergovernmental organizations and other concerned bodies, with due regard for possible measures to improve the reporting procedure.

99th plenary meeting
22 December 1995